



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

May 26, 2005

# News Release

## **ICE ARRESTS 3 CRIMINAL FUGITIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA**

*Fugitives convicted of crimes ranging from burglary to drug possession*

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Three convicted felons who were targets of an effort to locate and arrest fugitives in hiding were arrested here last week by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers assigned to Atlanta's Fugitive Operations Task Force.

Arnolda Chavez had been convicted of burglary and DUI and was granted voluntary departure by an immigration judge on September 3, 2002. Chavez failed to surrender for removal and opted to hide instead.

Also Arrested was 40-year-old, Rogelio Luna-Lezama, of Mexico who was convicted of drug possession. Luna-Lezama was ordered removed in 2001 after having exhausted all avenues of appeal. He too chose to ignore the order.

“Those individuals who think they can break our laws, hide and avoid deportation are sadly mistaken,” said John A. Mata, field office director for detention and removal in Atlanta. “We are looking for you, will find you and deport you as mandated by law.”

All of those arrested are being detained at the Mecklenburg County Jail pending their removal from the country.

The Atlanta Field Office has arrested more than 500 criminal aliens since the beginning of Fiscal Year 05. ICE removed over 3,392 illegal aliens from the Atlanta area in Fiscal Year 04; 2,105 were criminal aliens.

The Hickory Police Department in North Carolina assisted in making these arrests.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*